

Hylan Put No Curb on Pier Profiteering

Hulbert Admits Certain Companies Got 500% Profit on Dock Deals Mayor's Regime Upheld

Sub-Letting Under Leases Hurt Port

Witness, at Meyer Probe, Blames Sinking Fund and Corporation Counsel

Evidence of gross profiteering in pier leases, to the great injury of the port's business, and the utter neglect and helplessness of the authorities to cope with the situation, were revealed yesterday before the Meyer Legislative committee investigating the Hylan administration.

It was shown that on the basis of long term leases at low rates obtained from the city, certain companies were enabled to export profits as high as 500 per cent a year from other steamship lines to whom they would sublet portions of these piers or grant wharfage privileges.

Hulbert Admits Conditions

Murray Hulbert, Dock Commissioner, admitted on the witness stand the correctness of the conditions alleged. He said that the system that permitted the evils was bad and destructive, and that while he had made every effort to check the practice practically nothing had been done to eliminate it.

He placed the blame for the situation principally upon the shoulders of the Corporation Counsel and the Sinking Fund Commissioner, who, because they differed with the Dock Commissioner on the interpretation of the city charter covering the matter, refused to permit him to regulate wharfage and sub-letting charges. Mr. Hulbert, himself nominated by Tammany Hall for President of the Board of Aldermen, thus places the responsibility upon two offices of the Hylan regime.

Elin R. Brown, chief counsel to the committee, submitted figures showing how the Maritime Wharfing Company had paid the city \$40,000 on a lease for a pier at the foot of East Twenty-fourth Street, and had sublet it at a profit of \$60,000.

No Accounts Kept on Lessees

The Commissioner said that the city made no effort to keep account of the huge profits collected by lessees in this manner, and that no books were kept on the subject, although he admitted "it would be a sensible thing to do."

He then pointed out that the city charter contained no provisions respecting sub-letting, and that when he attempted to repeat the practice in connection with the Sinking Fund and piers the idea was rejected by the Sinking Fund Commissioner on the ground that it discriminated against older leaseholders, who were not similarly treated. The Commissioner said the Sinking Fund Commissioner decided that the lessee could let for a sum that would entitle him to obtain the pier for practically nothing.

Mr. Brown intimated, however, that the Dock Commissioner was in a measure justified in his contention of the fact that the latter had control over charges where the lessee had a permit with revocable rights, and that he thus had the power to correct the condition. To this the Commissioner replied that it was true he had the power over instances that he was aware of, but that he had no means of keeping track of incoming ships and the wharfage they were paying.

Corrective Suggestions Offered

At the conclusion of the session Mr. Brown summed up the evidence so far submitted respecting the Dock Department, and offered some suggestions for correction of the evils he revealed.

He referred to the desirability for the elimination of long leases and the substitution, according to the suggestion of the Commissioner, of a control of all wharfage by the city with certain fixed charges. He pointed out that there has been no standard in making leases based upon a reasonable return for the property. He thought this fair profit should be about 10 per cent.

The practice of granting ten-year leases with the proviso of a renewal at an increase of 10 per cent was entirely inadequate, he insisted, and the practice should be changed by the Legislature. He suggested that legislation should be enacted to bring about equality of charges and some method found for eliminating the profiteering arising from the leasing system just described.

The matter of exorbitant wharfage charges by lessees was brought up for discussion in a report of General William M. Black, which the latter had presented to the United States Shipping Board some time ago. It was in connection with these statistics that Mr. Brown pointed out that the city was receiving this year \$393,000 less on its \$200,000,000 worth of pier property than it would have received in taxes had the property been privately owned.

Black's Inquiry Reviewed

Mr. Hulbert said he had thrown open the books of the Dock Department to General Black when he was making his investigation into the profiteering charges for the United States Shipping Board, and had requested the latter for a copy of his report when he turned it in. He said he never received a copy of it. He said that, from other experiences he had had with the General, the latter "was not entirely friendly to the port."

He Commissioner, in explaining how the profiteering was made possible, said there was a clause in the city charter giving the Dock Commissioner the right to fix wharfage charges—that is, to set the rates. There is a provision in the charter which prohibits sub-letting, but giving the first lease the right to fix wharfage charges. "It was on this point that the Dock Commissioner said he disagreed with the Corporation Counsel. With no power of checking the activities of the lessees the Dock Commissioner says they were free to make whatever charges they wanted, in profiteering and street cleaning to the port."

He added, however, that he has started

Ruth Gets His 55th; New Home Run Mark

"Babe" Ruth set a new mark for home run hitting at the Polo Grounds yesterday when he drove the ball into the upper tier of the right field stands for his "fifty-fifth" of the season. "Babe" shattered all previous records of the sort last year by knocking out fifty-four homers, so it is his own figure that he excelled yesterday.

Twenty-eight thousand fans were on hand to cheer the Sultan of Swat as he pranced around the bases, following his record-breaking smash. A perfect shower of straw hats fell from the stands to bedeck the hero's pathway to the home plate.

(Further details of the historic homer will be found on the sports page.)

F. D. Roosevelt Has Paralysis In Mild Form

Muscles of Both Legs Are Affected by Malady of Infantile Variety, but the Patient Now Is Improving

General Condition Good

Ex-Assistant Secretary of Navy Brought Here From Resort in a Private Car

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy during the Wilson administration, was taken yesterday afternoon to the Presbyterian Hospital, suffering from a mild form of infantile paralysis. The disease has affected the muscles in his legs. It was said last night that his general condition was good.

Mr. Roosevelt was brought to the city from his summer home at Campobello Island, Bay of Fundy, in a private car. His private physician, Dr. George Draper, of 116 East Fifty-third Street, and Dr. Charles H. Young, superintendent of Presbyterian Hospital, said last night that there is no cause for alarm. Dr. Draper declared that the acute attack from which Mr. Roosevelt had suffered had entirely passed.

"Mr. Roosevelt had a comfortable trip here," he said, "and is doing very well now."

He said how long he will be kept in the hospital, but it can be definitely stated that he will not be crippled and no one need have any fear of permanent injury in any way from this attack.

The former Assistant Secretary suffered his first attack August 10. Dr. Draper said that the limbs and feet were affected, with temporary loss of control of both legs below the knees. Mr. Roosevelt has, however, regained the control of his legs. This is a promising sign, according to Dr. Draper.

Mr. Roosevelt's New York home is at 47 East Sixty-fifth Street. An ambulance was waiting at the Grand Central Station when his train arrived yesterday at 2:20 p. m.

Mob of Idle Threaten Police in Rum Seizure

Bridgeport Reserves Save a Truckload of Alcohol From Crowd of 2,000

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Sept. 15.—Captain Charles Wheeler, of the 2d Precinct police station, was compelled to summon an extra squad of police to bridgeport yesterday afternoon to deal with a mob of 2,000 who had gathered in the station to-day, after the police had seized fifteen barrels of alcohol, valued at approximately \$10,000, which was being conveyed on a big motor truck from this city.

The news of the seizure spread through the East Side and a crowd numbering nearly two thousand gathered. Most of them were unemployed and some of them were armed with knives and clubs. The liquor could be easily taken from the police. The crowd was dispersed after some difficulty.

Caroline Malinconico, driver of the truck, who gave his address as New Haven, was arrested and placed under bonds of \$500. He refused to tell who the alcohol was consigned to in New Haven, but admitted that he got the stuff in this city from a man whose name he did not know.

\$1,500,000 Received Here in Reparations Gold

Consignment of Austrian Kronen Arrives From Bremen on Steamship Potomac

A consignment of gold in Austrian kronen valued at \$1,500,000 arrived here yesterday on the steamship Potomac, of the United States Lines, from Bremen. It is known as the "reparations gold" and was consigned to the Federal Reserve Bank, where it was deposited to the credit of Belgium and which was to be made in this country by these nations.

The gold, which was stacked in kegs, was kept in the strong room of the vessel and was taken away under an armed guard.

The Potomac carried from Bremen 100 cabin and 350 steerage passengers.

Ku-Klux Inquiry Will Be Asked of Congress

Bay State Representative to Offer Resolution When the House Reconvenes

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Investigation by Congress of the Ku-Klux Klan will be proposed in a resolution which Representative Taggart, Democrat, of Massachusetts, announced to-day he was having drafted for introduction when the House reconvenes next week. The proposed inquiry would be made either by a special committee or by the House Judiciary Committee.

Representative Taggart said he had received information that the Ku-Klux Klan was endeavoring to establish branches in Massachusetts and other New England states.

Bail To-day For Arbuckle Is Forecast

\$5,000 Bond Ready if Prosecutor Decides to Forego Murder Charge for Lesser Indictment

Girl's Condition Factor in Trial

Physician and Nurses at Odds; Women Vigilantes to Protect Witnesses

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 15.—The grand jury to-day presented a formal indictment against Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, charging him with manslaughter in having caused the death of Virginia Rappe, motion picture actress, who was injured in the course of revels at a party given by the film comedian in his rooms, at the St. Francis Hotel, September 5. The action to-day followed the finding of the jury after investigation last Tuesday night.

The indictment was filed before Presiding Judge Shortall, of the Superior Court, and after the presentation of the document the court fixed Arbuckle's bail at \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 bonds. This action does not immediately operate to give Arbuckle his freedom on depositing the required bail. He must remain in jail pending his hearing in the Superior Court to-morrow morning. This hearing will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. The court will hear the evidence in the case and will decide whether or not to grant bail. This is the first important decision upon an application for an increase in trolley fares. It denied and denounced as extravagant a request made by the New York State Railways Company for permission to raise trolley fares in Utica from 6 cents to 10.

The Public Service Commission was appointed under the same law which authorized the appointment of the Transit Commission. The former has jurisdiction over transit companies outside the city and the latter over those in the city. William A. Prendergast, chairman of the Public Service Commission, wrote the opinion announced yesterday, and his fellow-commissioners concurred in it unanimously.

Policy of Commission

Commissioner Prendergast said that the decision might serve as an example to other transit companies which the commission would follow in such cases. In it he said:

"Public utilities, just as other departments of business, must expect to get far from the original rate of earnings. It is with this in mind that the public is entitled to the benefit of the surplus over the agreed earning rate in times of prosperity."

It is not dealing with the conditions of 1920 or the previous abnormal years, but with the present period, which is one of profound economic adjustment. It is with this in mind that the public is entitled to the benefit of the surplus over the agreed earning rate in times of prosperity."

Company Must Be Careful

"While a franchise rate once fixed must not be presumed to be immutable, the reasons advanced for changing it should be of controlling character. In this case the local authorities have already conceded an advance in passenger fares from 10 to 12 cents. The local authorities therefore cannot be charged with failure to appreciate the additional revenue requirements of the street railroad company due to this war conditions. With the subsidence of these conditions it is not in order for the railroad company to be seeking further advances, especially in the form of its present utterly extravagant request for a ten-cent fare. On the other hand, it is the duty of the company to administer its affairs through economies and improvements that the fare to be charged to the public will be at the lowest possible minimum consistent with good service and an adequate return to the investors."

Spain Strict With Charles

Wants Ex-Ruler to Cut Down His Household Staff

BERNE, Switzerland, Sept. 15.—(The Associated Press.) The Spanish Government is demanding that the former Emperor Charles of Austria take up a residence in Spain, as he has two children and a Madrid government is allowed to do.

Spain especially demands restrictions on the household expenses of the ex-emperor, which are estimated to amount annually to 1,280,000 Swiss francs. This expenditure is caused by his staff of eighty persons, which the Spanish government desires reduced considerably.

German Wives Demand Union Labor Status; Parliament Balks

BERLIN, Sept. 15.—(By The Associated Press.) The National Association of German Housewives has asked the Prussian Parliament to recognize it formally as a labor union, but the request was denied when it was learned the organization's constitution had failed to specify whether the housewives were employers or employees.

The rejection of the request disclosed differences of opinion among the members of the various branches, some asserting that women who did their own housework were employees, while others asserted that they were not. Other hired help were employees.

Objections, particularly by peasant members, to classifying married women whose household duties were performed by servants as "professional wives," brought about an attempt to evade the issue by the use of the words "profes-

Harding Arms Policy Indorsed by Marshall

PROVIDENCE, Sept. 15.—Former Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall to-day received an ovation at the Kingston Fair, when he made a vigorous appeal for the people to get behind President Harding during the forthcoming Conference on the Limitation of Armament in order that "we may ward off every enemy of mankind."

Mr. Marshall also declared the vote should be withheld from all non-English-speaking residents, as, in his opinion, they were not entitled to participate in the government.

P. S. C. Refuses To Allow Fare Raise in Utica

Board Appointed by Miller, and Derided by Hylan, Rejects Increase Plea in Its First Decision

General Policy Shown

Prendergast Says Period of Readjustment Does Not Warrant Higher Rate

Governor Miller's Public Service Commission, which Mayor Hylan has assailed as an instrument of the traction interests, made public yesterday its first important decision upon an application for an increase in trolley fares. It denied and denounced as extravagant a request made by the New York State Railways Company for permission to raise trolley fares in Utica from 6 cents to 10.

The Public Service Commission was appointed under the same law which authorized the appointment of the Transit Commission. The former has jurisdiction over transit companies outside the city and the latter over those in the city. William A. Prendergast, chairman of the Public Service Commission, wrote the opinion announced yesterday, and his fellow-commissioners concurred in it unanimously.

Policy of Commission

Commissioner Prendergast said that the decision might serve as an example to other transit companies which the commission would follow in such cases. In it he said:

"Public utilities, just as other departments of business, must expect to get far from the original rate of earnings. It is with this in mind that the public is entitled to the benefit of the surplus over the agreed earning rate in times of prosperity."

It is not dealing with the conditions of 1920 or the previous abnormal years, but with the present period, which is one of profound economic adjustment. It is with this in mind that the public is entitled to the benefit of the surplus over the agreed earning rate in times of prosperity."

Company Must Be Careful

"While a franchise rate once fixed must not be presumed to be immutable, the reasons advanced for changing it should be of controlling character. In this case the local authorities have already conceded an advance in passenger fares from 10 to 12 cents. The local authorities therefore cannot be charged with failure to appreciate the additional revenue requirements of the street railroad company due to this war conditions. With the subsidence of these conditions it is not in order for the railroad company to be seeking further advances, especially in the form of its present utterly extravagant request for a ten-cent fare. On the other hand, it is the duty of the company to administer its affairs through economies and improvements that the fare to be charged to the public will be at the lowest possible minimum consistent with good service and an adequate return to the investors."

Spain Strict With Charles

Wants Ex-Ruler to Cut Down His Household Staff

BERNE, Switzerland, Sept. 15.—(The Associated Press.) The Spanish Government is demanding that the former Emperor Charles of Austria take up a residence in Spain, as he has two children and a Madrid government is allowed to do.

Spain especially demands restrictions on the household expenses of the ex-emperor, which are estimated to amount annually to 1,280,000 Swiss francs. This expenditure is caused by his staff of eighty persons, which the Spanish government desires reduced considerably.

German Wives Demand Union Labor Status; Parliament Balks

BERLIN, Sept. 15.—(By The Associated Press.) The National Association of German Housewives has asked the Prussian Parliament to recognize it formally as a labor union, but the request was denied when it was learned the organization's constitution had failed to specify whether the housewives were employers or employees.

The rejection of the request disclosed differences of opinion among the members of the various branches, some asserting that women who did their own housework were employees, while others asserted that they were not. Other hired help were employees.

Objections, particularly by peasant members, to classifying married women whose household duties were performed by servants as "professional wives," brought about an attempt to evade the issue by the use of the words "profes-

Court Rules For Hines in Recount Plea

Elections Board on Monday Must Show Miller Legally Gained Place as Democratic Nominee

Affidavit Includes Fraud Particulars

Policeman Denies Attack on Shalleck Was Made Near Home of Murphy

Supreme Court Justice Isidor Wasservogel yesterday issued an order calling upon the Board of Elections to show cause why a recount should not be granted in the Tammany fight for President of the Borough of Manhattan. It was charged formally yesterday that the nomination had been stolen from James J. Hines, the anti-Murphy candidate.

The order was issued on the application of Vincent S. Lippe, counsel for Hines, who alleged election frauds on the part of the Tammany watchers and polling clerks. Thirty-five specific instances of repeating and other election crimes are charged in the moving papers. The order is returnable Monday before Justice Wasservogel.

Prison for hundreds of Tammany workers is certain if the Hines faction can prove only a small part of charges contained in the affidavit sworn to by James J. Hines and filed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Police May Be Accused

In addition to prosecutions for alleged frauds at the polls, the Hines faction is asking the court to order an investigation of the police department and several Tammany politicians in connection with the beating and shooting of Hines's manager, Joseph Shalleck, and other Hines men while they were looking for evidence of irregularities in a polling booth not far from the home of James J. Murphy.

The Police Department yesterday issued a statement purporting to have been made by Patrolman Kiernan Doonan, who was one of the policemen present in the polling booth when Shalleck was shot and blackjacked. According to the statement, no one was injured in the polling booth, no blows were struck and no shots were fired.

Doonan, however, admits that ten or twelve men came there in two automobiles, bearing out that part of the statement of Shalleck and his companions. He also bears out their declaration that they were looking for evidence of irregularities in a polling booth not far from the home of James J. Murphy.

Called Wordy Wrangle

To this the spokesman for the Hines party, according to Doonan, replied: "It's none of your business. I'm here to inspect them."

Doonan said that a wordy wrangle then ensued between Hines men and the polling inspectors, which, according to Doonan, when he ordered the Hines men to leave, saying that if they did not he would arrest them. The Hines men then left, and their automobiles and drove off.

Certificate for Miller

It was said yesterday by those familiar with the election law that the Board of Elections must have given a certificate of nomination to Miller, as the board must go on the face of the returns. Hines, however, in the event of being successful in a recount, can then have his name on the ballot. The Board of Elections must give the certificate of election before Sunday midnight, as the law calls for action in respect 120 hours after midnight of primary night. Hines to have the courts order his name on the ballot need only show an average of less than five stolen votes to each election district.

German Wives Demand Union Labor Status; Parliament Balks

BERLIN, Sept. 15.—(By The Associated Press.) The National Association of German Housewives has asked the Prussian Parliament to recognize it formally as a labor union, but the request was denied when it was learned the organization's constitution had failed to specify whether the housewives were employers or employees.

The rejection of the request disclosed differences of opinion among the members of the various branches, some asserting that women who did their own housework were employees, while others asserted that they were not. Other hired help were employees.

Objections, particularly by peasant members, to classifying married women whose household duties were performed by servants as "professional wives," brought about an attempt to evade the issue by the use of the words "profes-

Lloyd George Calls Off Parley When De Valera Insists on Independence

Paragraph in De Valera's Message 'That Caused Break in Negotiations'

The paragraph in Eamon de Valera's letter to Premier Lloyd George which caused the breaking off of the Irish peace negotiations was as follows:

"In this final note we deem it our duty to reaffirm that our position is and can only be as we have defined it throughout this correspondence. Our nation has formally declared its independence and recognizes itself as a sovereign state. It is only as representatives of that state and as its chosen guardians that we have authority or powers to act on behalf of our people."

In his reply to Mr. de Valera the British Prime Minister said: "I asked them [the bearers of Mr. De Valera's communication] to warn you of the very serious effect of such a paragraph, and offered to regard the letter as not delivered to me in order that you might have time to reconsider it. Despite this intimation you have now published the letter in its original form. I must accordingly cancel the arrangements for the conference next week at Inverness."

League Leaders See Visions of Its Future Fade

Few Delegates at Geneva Continue to Regard It as the Superpower That They Visualized in 1920

Cannot Enforce Decrees

Campaign of Publicity Is Advised to Enlist Wider Co-operation of Nations

By Wilbur Forrest

Special Cable to The Tribune
Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.

GENEVA, Sept. 15.—As the League of Nations approaches the end of a fortnight's deliberations the impression might be gained superficially that the league has resolved itself into an international debating society in which hundreds of thousands of words have been given forth by representatives of nations from all quarters of the globe. Events, however, are beginning to bring into definite light the fact that the society of nations is coming to a new status.

In effect the league has somewhat humiliated itself. This world superpower, which was to create perfect universal brotherhood almost overnight, it existed in the minds of some of the league's supporters a year ago, is now recognized as a mere illusion. Only a few delegates out of those representing the more than forty nations in the Geneva meeting have not reversed their beliefs of 1920. The league to-day, if it is to be compared to anything for purposes of illustration, is like a mentally alert young cripple, who is not necessarily incurable but in the mean time is possessed of ability to act as a powerful moral force.

Prescribes, but Cannot Enforce

The Geneva meeting has shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that the league is not yet powerful enough to prescribe the medicine of universal disarmament and treat vital world ills and at the same time force the patient to take its medicine. Certainly, however, the league has demonstrated its growing moral powers and it must necessarily function, at least until it is joined by the United States and other great powers, such as Russia and Germany, on this basis.

The moral power of the league will be publicized, which will not only be directed when occasion requires against dishonest international powers, but will be used for liberally acquainting the world of the league's activities, in the hope that public opinion of the nations in the league, as well as in those outside, will strengthen its hands.

There is a danger, however, that the league will be shelled until a ministry was formed. Ehrhardt has been in communication recently with former Bavarian Minister of Justice Roth. According to information obtained at Police Headquarters, Colonel Bauer is now residing in Budapest, but recently he has made several visits to Munich, where he met Ehrhardt.

Jay-Walking Squirrel Halts Traffic in Circle

There was a fifteen-minute traffic tie-up at Columbus Circle late yesterday afternoon. It was the only tie-up since the Patrolman 7707, who experienced the same trouble, was shot and killed. About 6 o'clock a Central Park squirrel darted out of the park and started across the Circle, headed straight for the white lights of Broadway. Patrolman 7707 saw it, made a lunge for it and struck the asphalt. That was the beginning of the tie-up. The adventuresome park fugitive darted under a glossy limousine leading a long procession of cars. The driver saw it and stopped the car. Other drivers stopped their cars. Traffic Cop 7707 then gave chase. So did many pedestrians. The squirrel played hide and seek successfully for ten minutes, hopping from one machine to another, with a hysterical crowd in pursuit.

Somebody finally imprisoned it beneath a September 15 straw hat, but the squirrel got away, darted back across the Circle, and disappeared into the park. Traffic began moving again.

THE WEATHER

Fair and slightly cooler to-day; cloudy to-morrow; moderate northerly winds.

Full Report on Last Page

TWO CENTS	THREE CENTS	FOUR CENTS
In Greater New York	Within 200 Miles	Elsewhere

British Cannot Reconsider Refusal to Meet Envoys as Delegates of Republic, He Declares

Leaves Door Open To New Proposals

Hint Is Given of Further Action After Consultation With His Advisers

By Arthur S. Draper

From The Tribune's European Bureau
Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—Premier Lloyd George late this afternoon called off the conference arranged for Sinn Fein and British representatives at Inverness, Scotland, next Tuesday, and to-night the Irish question was in its most precarious situation since Eamon de Valera and Lloyd George first began their negotiations.

This development came suddenly and unexpectedly immediately after De Valera's reply to the conference invitation was made public in Dublin. It resulted from De Valera insisting that Ireland was a sovereign, independent state, and that Sinn Fein delegates would enter the conference only as envoys of such a state. The British Premier promptly sent a message in reply, announcing that the government could not consider such a claim and that he was cancelling arrangements for the conference.

Will Consult Cabinet

Lloyd George informed the Irish leader, however, that he would consult with members of his Cabinet as to what course was made necessary by the new situation, thus leaving some hope for further negotiation.

Lloyd George's message to-day explains the mystery of what happened Tuesday at Gairloch, where the Premier is spending a vacation, when the Sinn Fein delegates refused to enter. It states that he informed the Irish leader that he had informed the British Premier of the Sinn Fein's claim that its delegates should negotiate as the representatives of a sovereign state working under the conference impossible and offered to regard De Valera's letter, which the Premier, Joseph McGrath and Harry Boland, carried, as still undelivered, in order to give the Irish leader an opportunity to reconsider.

Lloyd George refers to the failure of this effort of his in the following words: "Despite this intimation, you have now published this letter, which was first released in Dublin this afternoon in its original form."

Would Constitute Recognition

In another part of his reply Lloyd George says that if the British government accepted the proposal to meet a conference, in view of the claim reiterated by the Sinn Fein, it would constitute official recognition by the British government of the existence of Ireland as an independent state, and would concede its right to break from association with the British Empire and ally itself with some other foreign nation. "Only one thing is possible in such a claim," the Premier declares.

"At the close of his reply Lloyd George tells De Valera that it is his opinion the many concessions made by the government in the past, and the generous response from Sinn Fein. On the contrary, says the Premier, 'You have not met us with a single step.'"

Break Surprises London

The government's reply took London completely by surprise to-night. When the letter from the Sinn Fein leaders, and the original Sinn Fein draft was published this afternoon, it was generally assumed that the conference would meet at Inverness Tuesday night. As the Sinn Fein draft stated, "We have no hesitation in entering our willingness to enter the conference" on the basis which Lloyd George himself had laid down in the final paragraph of his last communication, it was thought he would be ready to overlook Sinn Fein's reiteration of its claim to independence as merely an elaborate process for saving its face.

He evidently swung around to a less conciliatory attitude because De Valera ignored his suggestion that the Sinn Fein letter be held back pending further consultation with the Sinn Fein leaders, and the original Sinn Fein draft was published in Dublin without any consultation with the British government, which is a breach of all previous procedure regarding publication as suggested by the British government. It is quite impossible at present to foresee what will develop from the wholly unexpected situation which has arisen at the eleventh hour, when every day and night the British government was expecting the conference to be held without further hitch. Hopes are still entertained, however, that the bridge between the government and Sinn Fein can be rebuilt. At the same time, it must be recognized that the opposing parties seem to-night to be as far apart as they were when the negotiations first began.

Test of Premier's Reply

LONDON, Sept. 15.—(By The Associated Press.) The text of the Sinn Fein reply to Eamon de Valera's communication follows:

"I informed your emissaries who came to me here Tuesday that restoration of your claim to negotiate